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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/817,402	03/29/2004	DahShiarn Chiao		3200

7590 10/01/2008
David O'Neill
786 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06512

EXAMINER

BOECKMANN, JASON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3752

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10/01/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/817,402	Applicant(s) CHIAO ET AL.	
	Examiner Jason J. Boeckmann	Art Unit 3752	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-19, 21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Newly amended claim 20 appears to be directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons:

Due to the reasons set forth in the restriction requirement mailed on 10/18/2007, and the applicant's response with an election of group III, claims 17-22, it is noted that newly amended claim reads on invention II, claims 10-16 which was withdrawn in the applicants response of 1/18/2008.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 20 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 21 recites the limitation "skin" in lines 3 and 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear what is meant by the term "skin." Is it referring to the outer most layer of the target being sprayed, the skin of an actual human, or any other skin?

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "electrically semi- insulating" in claim 22 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "electrically semi- insulating" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. It is unclear how insulating the material is, is it electrically insulating or not?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 17-19 and claims 21 and 22, as best understood, are rejected, as well as understood, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohno et al. (3,887,928).

Ohno et al. shows an electrostatic spraying device comprising: a high voltage generator (7) having a high voltage output; at least one dispensing nozzle (the exit opening in tube 3), a housing (2) enclosing at least one reservoir, a tube (3) connecting

the at least one dispensing nozzle and the at least one reservoir, the tube configured to convey the materials to be sprayed from the at least one reservoir to the at least one dispensing nozzle, means coupling (the wires) the high voltage output of the high voltage generator to the materials so that the voltage is conducted through the materials to the materials present at the at least one dispensing nozzle, at least one ring (9) surrounding the at least one dispensing nozzle, the at least one ring coupled to the high voltage generator (via terminal 10), the at least one ring configured to develop a high voltage of the same polarity(column 4, lines 42-3) as that applied to the materials being sprayed and to generate an electric field in the vicinity of the at least one dispensing nozzle; wherein during spraying operations the electrostatic spraying device is configured to impart an electrostatic charge to the materials issuing from the at least one nozzle and to focus the material being sprayed when a forward extremity (the part of the ring that is closest to the earthed target) of the ring is brought in proximity to an earthed target to be sprayed (it is noted that when the device is brought in close proximity to an earthed target, the material being sprayed is automatically focused on a section of the earthed target).

Regarding claim 18, the at least one dispensing nozzle is mounted in fixed relation to the and the at least one ring is in the form of an annular cable mounted on the housing (figure 32) in substantially concentric relation with the at least one dispensing nozzle.

Regarding claim 19, the means for supplying the materials to the nozzle passively is gravity, depending on the orientation of the device.

Regarding claim 21, as best understood, the electrostatic spray device is configured to generate an iontophoresis effect to enhance transport through skin when the forward extremity of the nozzle is within a distance of 2 cm from the skin of an earthed target. It is noted that since the Ohno et al. reference discloses the exact structure as that of the present invention, the Ohno et al. reference will generate an iontophoresis effect when the nozzle is within 2 cm from the target, in the same way as the present invention does.

Regarding claim 22, as best understood, the at least one ring is made of an electrically semi-insulating material, and since it is charged with the same voltage as the material to be dispensed, it forms a potential in a location forward of the nozzle.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments concerning the Ohno reference, filed 8/5/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the applicant's response concerning the Ohno reference, due to the use of the term "configured to" in line 18 of claim 17 the fact that "electrostatic spraying device configured ... to focus the material being sprayed when the forward extremity of the ring is brought in proximity to an earthed target to be sprayed," is an intended use recitation. A recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is

capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. Therefore, it is noted that the Ohno is configured to focus the material being sprayed to a specific point on the earthed target as the nozzle gets closer and closer to the earthed target, Just as in any other spray device functions when coming closer and closer to a target, weather or not the target is earthed or not

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason J. Boeckmann whose telephone number is (571)272-2708. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00- 5:00, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on (571) 272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jason J Boeckmann/
Examiner, Art Unit 3752
9/23/2008
/Len Tran/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3852